

NSC BRIEFING

14 August 1958

TAIWAN STRAITS

- I. Situation in Taiwan Straits continues to develop as outlined last week.
- A. There are still no indications that Communist ground or naval forces in East China plan to attack the offshore islands.
- II. However, Communist air force continues preparations to take control of air over Fukien Coast, and major air clash occurred this morning.

1. Chicomso increasingly aggressive since 9 Aug.

D. Chinat patrol (possibly 35 F-86s) engaged Chicomso (possibly 20 MIG-17s) over Straits near Mantai early this morning. Circumstances still unknown, but Nationalists claim three MIGs shot down, one F-86 damaged.

E. Further clashes of this kind could occur at any time, could involve US forces.

1. US naval vessel apparently in vicinity of fight today.

- III. Prior to this incident, Ambassador Drumright reported he believed it unlikely that Nationalists will bomb or otherwise attack the mainland unless the offshore islands are directly attacked, but stated tension rising.

State Department
review completed

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- A. He said "impossible to estimate whether Chicom's merely intend build up tension or attack offshore islands.
- B. Nationalists have wind up again, are asking for public US statement that attack on offshore islands would be threat to security of Taiwan.

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